

**From:** Rep85@ohiohouse.gov <Rep85@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 2:08 PM  
**To:** [John.Becker@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:John.Becker@ohiohouse.gov)  
**Cc:** [Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov); [Rep65@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep65@ohiohouse.gov)  
**Subject:** Oppose the New Coal and Nuclear Bailout Bill

Rep. Becker,

Below is an email in three parts about HB 6, that some are calling the nuclear bailout. I wanted you to have my perspective as you are no doubt, getting a lot of emails like I am.

I have broken my email up to you in three parts:

Part 1 - a bit of background on the bill and the markets

Part 2 - my written response to emails from the district - feel free to use all or part of it

Part 3 - the form email that I am getting from people the first time (part 2 is my response to part 1)

I hope you will find this helpful and please let me know if you have any questions.

As the chairman of Energy and Natural Resources, I have been concerned by the misinformation that has been circulating about House Bill 6. I know a lot about this bill, have studied it and read over the release version (-9) no less than 3 times. Between the inaccurate form emails and the dishonest press that it has received thus far, the dialogue about this bill has become misleading at best. Because of this, I felt the need to give you a short background on the bill and also provide a response that I have been using. I have actually had constituents write back and apologize for not reading the bill before sending their initial emails opposing it.

House Bill 6 seeks to provide an alternative to the renewal portfolio standard (RPS) that was put in place by liberal Democrats some 10 years ago, which picked winners and losers in the Energy space and put a charge on people's bills. Additionally, it seeks to provide an alternative to the Energy Efficiency standards (EE) that put very high charges on residential and business bills, making Ohio an expensive place to buy electricity. The new program that HB 6 seeks to implement does not eliminate those programs, but offers an alternative that costs less and only applies to Ohioans.

Currently, the RPS, in the form of RECs, takes money out of Ohio ratepayers' pockets and sends it to electrical generation in other states. So we are paying for factories that produce electricity in

other states while our own generation is left out in the cold. This results in a very unbalanced market. While there are certainly other complicating factors in the electrical market, this is a big one.

You may also be interested to know that the EE program takes money off of ratepayers bills as a charge and uses that money to insulate the homes of low income Ohioans. In fact, we have actually paid to insulate and buy bulbs for people's homes for the last decade while we have no idea how energy efficient they are actually becoming. When I want to insulate my home, or become more efficient, I pay for the LED bulbs, the insulation and keep our windows down and locked and our doors closed. I ask, how many subsidy programs do we need to give away? We are already paying for food, heating assistance, cell phones, child support, and the list goes on and on.

While this may sound mean to some, a little hunger in the belly or being a little cold on some really cold days, is a good incentive for me to get up, go to work and provide for my 5 boys and wife. If everything is provided for me through government programs that I will never have to reimburse, what incentive is there for me to ever change and cover my own expenses?

Lastly, you may also be interested to know that the energy sector involves big money. Not millions but billions of dollars. To date, some of the hedge funds, particularly in gas, have purchased over 100 newspapers in Ohio, since the Shale boom. This is not because they love media, but because they want to influence opinion and drive other generation out of business by creating a negative climate. Don't believe me, look at what they have done to coal in the past 10 years. Opinion has been swayed despite the fact that coal is actually becoming increasingly clean. As of now, 85% or more of the contaminants in coal are captured completely. There is big money in energy and buying up newspapers and media, which to hedge funds is pennies in an industry based on billions and billions, is part of the money game. The Dispatch, Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository and over 100 other newspapers are all bought and paid for by hedge funds to shape public opinion.

I will keep you posted on this bill as I'm sure it will change during the committee process. In fact, I anticipate over 15 hours of testimony between yesterday and today's hearings alone.

Mr. [REDACTED]

Although House Bill 6 was just announced and I am still going through it in detail, I have currently read through this legislation twice. I am wondering if you have read it because the bill does not mention any type of electrical generator but your email references nuclear and coal.

In fact, the intent of the bill seems to encourage and reward clean air production, specifically low-carbon generation, which would include wind and solar. (lines 116-122) It also specifically states that these benefits only apply to companies that generate electricity within Ohio. (lines 217-219)

Additionally, there are currently fees on all Ohioans' bills. This new program does not eliminate any previous program but appears to provide an alternative that would lower the cost of energy while encouraging low-carbon generation technology in Ohio. (lines 362-375)

While I will most certainly be keeping a close watch on this bill, I do not see the concerns that you referenced within the text of this bill. If you think something is there that I am missing, please write me back and include the line numbers of the bill that back up your statements.

I have provided you a link below so you can easily get to and read the bill. You can also use it to reference the line numbers in my email in order to see where I am reading from based on the statements you have made.

Thanks so much for writing my office and being involved in the legislative process.

State Representative Nino Vitale

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA133-HB-6>

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-----Original Message-----

From: EDF Action <[takeaction@edf.org](mailto:takeaction@edf.org)>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 6:17 PM

To: Rep85 <[Rep85@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep85@ohiohouse.gov)>

Subject: Oppose the new coal and nuclear bailout bill.

Apr 15, 2019

State Representative A. Nino Vitale

Vern Riffe Center, 12th Floor

77 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear State Representative Vitale,

I am writing today deeply disappointed in the deceptive legislation recently introduced in the Ohio State House, which would bail out uneconomic coal and nuclear plants at the expense of Ohio customers.

The fact that this bill claims to be supporting "clean energy" while taking funds away from cost-effective and successful energy efficiency and renewable energy programs is disastrous for our state.

This bill only benefits a select few, mostly out-of-state interests.

The only winners are corporations who own Ohio's old coal plants and the hedge funds that will soon own FirstEnergy Solutions. It up-ends the competitive energy market that has helped keep our electricity prices low, and crushes the growing wind and solar industries that have created thousands of new jobs and helped fund our schools.

I strongly request that you vehemently oppose this dangerous bill, and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

